## REMARKS

In view of the Examiner's Second Advisory Action dated April 15, 2003, and the Final Office Action dated December 2, 2002, claims 1 and 36 are canceled.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's approval of the proposed drawing correction filed on September 5, 2002. Applicant reserves the submission of corrected drawings until this application is indicated as allowable.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 33-35, 38 and 39 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims in the December 2, 2002 Office Action. Claims 38 and 39 are amended to incorporate the base claims 1 and 36, respectively. Claims 33-35 are amended to be dependent from allowable amended claim 38. The remaining "rejected" claims now depend from allowable claims 33-35, 38 or 39.

New claim 40, which is dependent on allowable claim 38, is added to further clarify the claimed invention and is believed to be allowable. Since no new concept or language is used, no additional search is believed warranted.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

If the Examiner has any questions on the above and believes a telephone conference will aid in the allowance of the application, please contact the undersigned by telephone.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered because it requires only a cursory review by the Examiner, does not raise issue of new matter nor requires additional search.

By virtue of the Applicant's amendment to the claims and remarks thereto, all outstanding grounds of rejection and objection have been addressed and dealt with and, based thereon, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2-3, 5, 9, 18-19, 21, 25, 33-35 and 37-39 as follows:

2. (Amended) A coupling device as in claim [1] 38 wherein said top surface is raised relative to the exterior surface of said tubular member.

3. (Amended) A coupling device as in claim [1] 38 wherein said aperture is threaded internally and said stem of said supporting member is externally matingly threaded at least at its free end for engaging into said internally threaded aperture.

5. (Amended) A coupling device as in claim [1] 38 further including a lock nut along said stem for locking the free end of said stem into said aperture.

9. (Amended) A coupling device as in claim [1] 38 wherein a stop member projects internally at about the middle of said tubular member.

18. (Twice Amended) A coupling device as in claim [36] 39 wherein said top surface is raised relative to the exterior surface of said tubular member.

19. (Twice Amended) A coupling device as in claim [36] 39 wherein said aperture is threaded internally and said stem of said supporting member is externally matingly threaded at least at its free end for engaging into said internally threaded aperture.

21. (Twice Amended) A coupling device as in claim [36] 39 further including a lock nut along said stem for locking the free end of said stem into said aperture.

25. (Twice Amended) A coupling device as in claim [36] 39 wherein [said] a stop member projects internally at about the middle of said tubular member.

33. (Amended) The coupling device of claim [1]38, wherein said free end of the stem of the supporting member is positioned within the confine of said tubular member in contact with said pair of conduits.

34. (Amended) The coupling device of claim [1]38, wherein each of said ends of said tubular member is externally threaded for receiving said conduit.

35. (Amended) The coupling device of claim [1]38, wherein each of said ends of said tubular member further having an opening through said tubular member, said opening is internally threaded to receive a set screw for securely positioning said conduit.

37. (Amended) The coupling device of claim [1]38, wherein said aperture is generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said tubular member.

38. (Amended) A coupling device for positioning a pair of electrical wire-carrying conduits to be supported by a supporting member capable of being secured to a structure above said coupling device, said supporting member comprising a stem having a free end portion, said coupling device comprising a tubular member having opposed axially aligned ends, each of said ends adapted to receive one end of one of the pair of mating conduits, and said tubular member having a top surface and an aperture through said top surface adapted to be engaged by the free end portion of said stem of said supporting member [The coupling device of claim 1], wherein said supporting member is positioned above said aperture on said top surface of said tubular member.

39. (Amended) A coupling device for positioning a pair of electrical wire-carrying conduits to be supported by a supporting member capable of being secured to a structure adjacent said coupling device, said supporting member comprising a stem having a free end portion, said coupling device comprising an integral tubular member having a generally cylindrical wall surrounding an interior space and opposed axially aligned ends, each of said ends adapted to receive one end of one of the pair of a mating conduit, and said tubular member having an aperture through said tubular wall into said interior space, said free end of said stem engaging said aperture to support said tubular member and [The coupling device of claim 36, wherein said free end portion of said stem] is positioned in said interior space of said tubular member sufficient to engage said ends of said conduits received at said opposite ends of said tubular member.